

OGASTEMMA BRUMITT (BORAGINACEAE), A NEW GENUS FOR THE FLORA OF IRAN

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Ogastemma pusillum (Boraginaceae) is recorded here for the flora of Iran. It is the first report of the presence of the monotypic genus, *Ogastemma* in Iran. It is closely related to the genus *Echiochilon*.

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Key words. *Ogastemma*, Boraginaceae, new record, flora of Iran.

گزارش جنس جدید *Ogastemma* از تیره گل گاوزبان برای اولین بار از فلور ایران

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جنس تک گونه‌ای *Ogastemma* با گونه *Ogastemma pusillum* برای اولین بار از ایران گزارش می شود. این گونه در جنوب ایران،

استان هرمزگان می روید و به جنس *Echiochilon* نزدیک است.

Introduction

The first author has established a herbarium in Bandarabbas, Iran, collecting plant specimens of Hormozgan province. In the course of the identification of the specimens a specimen seemed to be interesting, had not been included in Flora Iranica (Riedl 1967) and Flora of Iran (Khatamsaz 2002). Further investigations using Flora of neighboring countries and also northern African Floras showed that it is a member of *Magastoma* (Benth. & Hook. f) Bonnet & Barratte or *Erithrichium* Schrad. or *Ogastemma* Brummit. complex (Feinbrun-Dothan 1978; Qaiser 1979; Boulos 2000; Langstrom 2002). Among them the genus *Ogastemma* is used for the species and introduced here as a new record to Iran.

Ogastemma pusillum (Coss. & Durand ex Bonnet & Barratte) Brummit, Kew Bull. 36: 680 (1982).

Syn.: *Megastoma pusillum* Coss. & Durand, Ap. Bal. Pl. Alg. exsicc. no. 1035 (1853); *Erithrichium pusillum* (Coss. & Durand) Torr. & Grey, Pacif. Rail. Rap. 2: 171 (1855) nom. nud.; *Megastoma pusillum* Coss. & Durand ex Bonnet & Barratte, Ill. Phan. Tunis., t. 11. F. 4-11 (1895), icon; Barratte in Bonet & Barratte, Cat. Pl. Vasc. Tun. 301 (1896), descr.

A monotypic genus of richly branched annual herb, up to 25 cm high, densely covered with appressed white setose hairs with a discoid base. Stems erect or ascending. Leaves linear-lanceolate, 2-20 x 1-2 mm, entire, alternate or opposite, sessile, covered with tubercle-based setae, acute or obtuse. Flowers produced abundantly along almost the whole length of the branches; the first flowers of the young shoots develop in the axil of the bifurcating stems. Bracts leaf like. Calyx 5-lobed, 2-4 mm long, divided almost to the base into linear, unequal lobes, slightly enlarged (to 5/5 mm) in fruit, hispid. Corolla 5-lobed, 2 mm long, actinomorphic, white, glabrous or sparsely hairy; lobes imbricate, without scales, obtuse. Stamens included, 5 in number; anthers ovate, longer than the filiform filaments, inserted at the middle of or slightly below the tube of corolla. Ovary 4-lobed, subglobose. Style gynobasic, short; stigma 2-lobed. Nutlets 4, ovoid, beige, acute at the apex, coherent, later free, densely verrucose; areole ventral, narrowly triangular.

Specimens studied. Hormozgan: Bandarabbas, Sarzeh mnt, 410 m, Khosravifar 5840; Bandar Khamir, 28 km on Dejan Podel road, 450 m, Zaeifi and Hajebi 3017.

Taxonomic remarks. The type specimen was not observed but the specimens were compared with the description and illustration of the species in Bolous

(2000); Feinbrun-Dothan (1978) and Qaiser (1979) and they match very well. Therefore, the identification of the specimens is confirmed. However, Qaiser (1979) reports and show scales on the corolla in the description and illustration. This character has not been reported in the other references and also is absent on the Iranian specimens. It seems further investigations are needed to clarify entity of Qaiser (1979) description and illustration. The genus *Ogastemma* is most closely related to the genus *Echiochilon* but differs from it in being an annual plant and having no ring of hairs inside of the corolla. *Echiochilon* is a subshrub and bears ring of hairs inside of the corolla. Among the Iranian representatives of the family *Boraginaceae* probably *Echiochilon persicum* (Burm. f.) Johnst. is most closely related species to *Ogastemma pusillum*.

Geographical distribution. *Ogastemma pusillum* seems to be mainly a Saharo-Sindian element distributes from NW Africa eastward to Egypt, Palaestine, Arabian Peninsula to southern Iran. It grows on sandy or rocky ground from sea level up to 1100 m on the Canary Islands, Mauritania, North Africa, Sinai, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Oman. The

closest locality to the Iranian gathering is in the countries in southern Persian Gulf.

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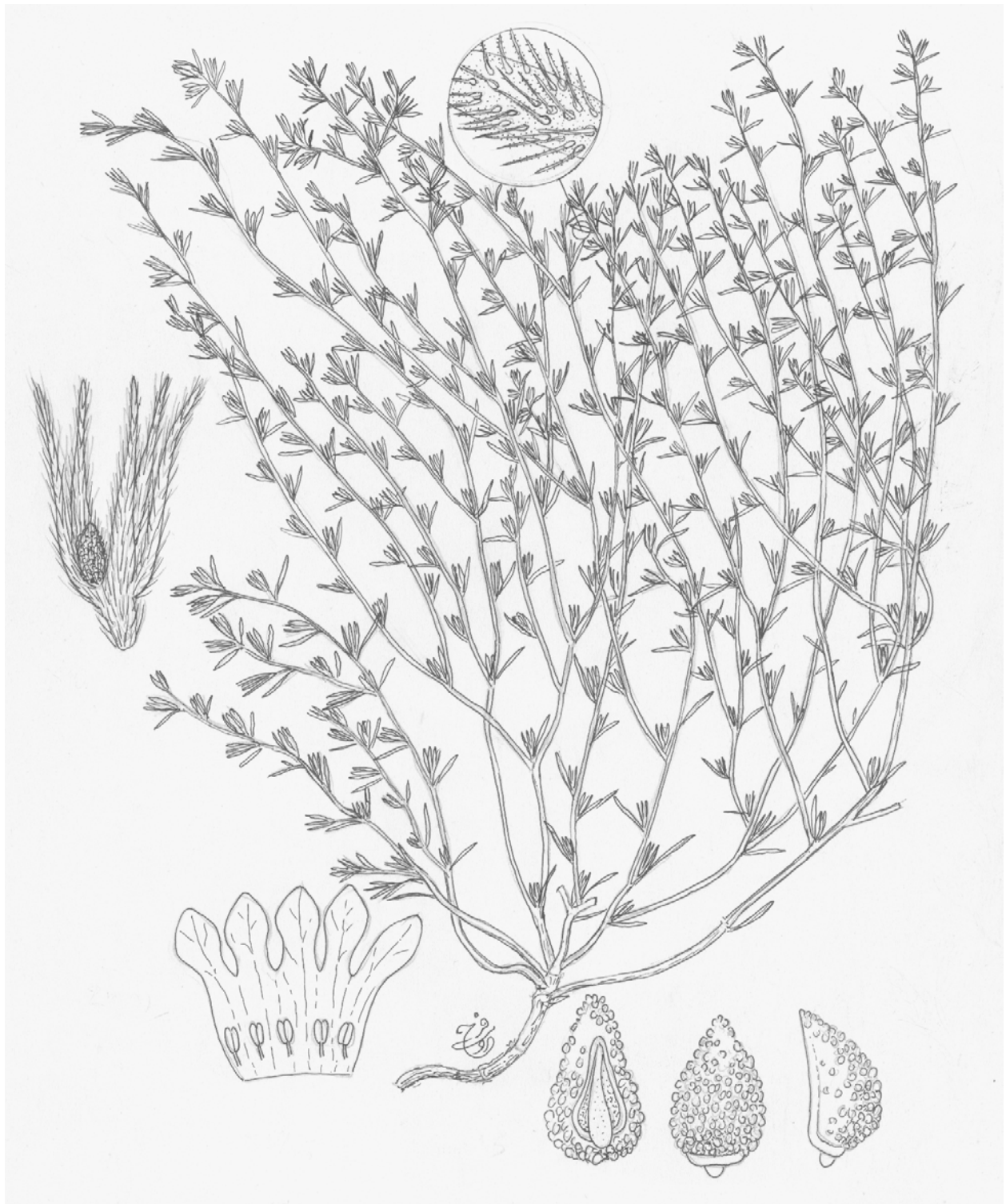


Fig. 1. *Ogastemma pusillum* ($\times 1$); fruiting calyx ($\times 10$); corolla ($\times 17.5$); nutlet ($\times 20$).